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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/530,547

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EXAMINER

BUCKLE JR, JAMES J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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4155

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02/21/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/530,547	Applicant(s) LEONTARIDIS, ATHANASIOS	
	Examiner JAMES J. BUCKLE JR	Art Unit 4155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/07/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 2 objected to because of the following informalities: the limitations of "Upwardly" bent legs and a "configuration similar to" does not add structure to the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

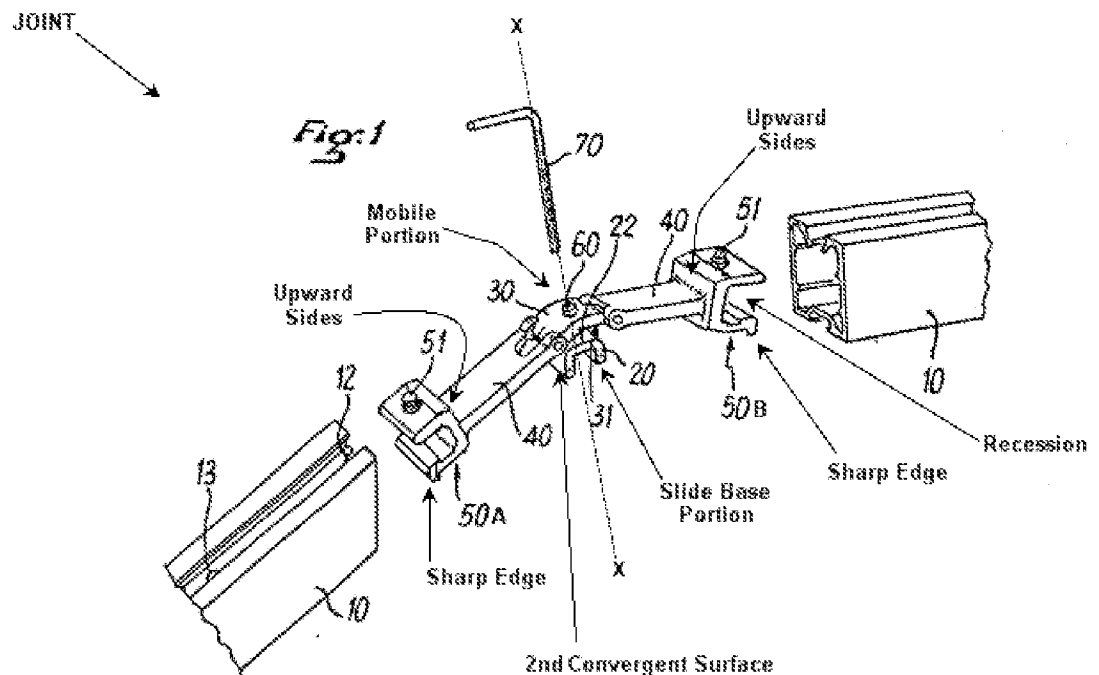
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Claude (EP0100733).
4. Regarding claim 1, Claude discloses a joint (Fig. 1 and 2) comprising:
 - a. "a slide base portion (Slide Base Portion) with an upper first flat basement (22) with a centrally located first cavity (62) and with first side parts (20) symmetrically extending on either side of said first flat basement (22), each one of said first side parts (20) having outer planar surfaces (21) able to come into sliding contact with a wall of each one of a pair of chambers(11,14) of the hollow profile members (10) being brought together for connection.." (Fig.2)

- b. “a mobile portion (Mobile Portion) with an upper second flat basement (30) with a centrally located second cavity (61) and with second side parts (40) being symmetrically arranged on either side of a plane of symmetry (x-x) passing through the plane of matching contact of the previously cut edges of said hollow profile members, said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) comprising upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) on either side thereof terminating at sharp edges (Sharp Edge) being adapted to produce an indentation effect into the walls of chambers (11,14).”
- c. “a bolt (60) being employed in a tightening process of the joint, said upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) being oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the plane of symmetry (x-x), said bolt (60) being able to pass through a hole (13) of the hollow profile members (10) lying at said plane of symmetry (x-x), said bolt being able to be screwed to exert an upwardly pushing force onto said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) until said sharp edges (Sharp Edge) thereof indent the walls of the profile members being connected...”
- d. “each one of first side parts (20) comprising a first section (First Section) extending into a second convergent surface (2nd Convergent Surface);
- e. “..mobile portion (Mobile Portion) having a configuration similar to the configuration of said slide base portion (Slide Base Portion)”
- f. “each one of said second side parts (40) comprising planar side surfaces

(50 A) and (50 B)", each with a length generally equivalent to the length of underlying corresponding said first section (First Section) and said second convergent surface (2nd Convergent Surface) of said slide base portion (Slide Base Portion).."

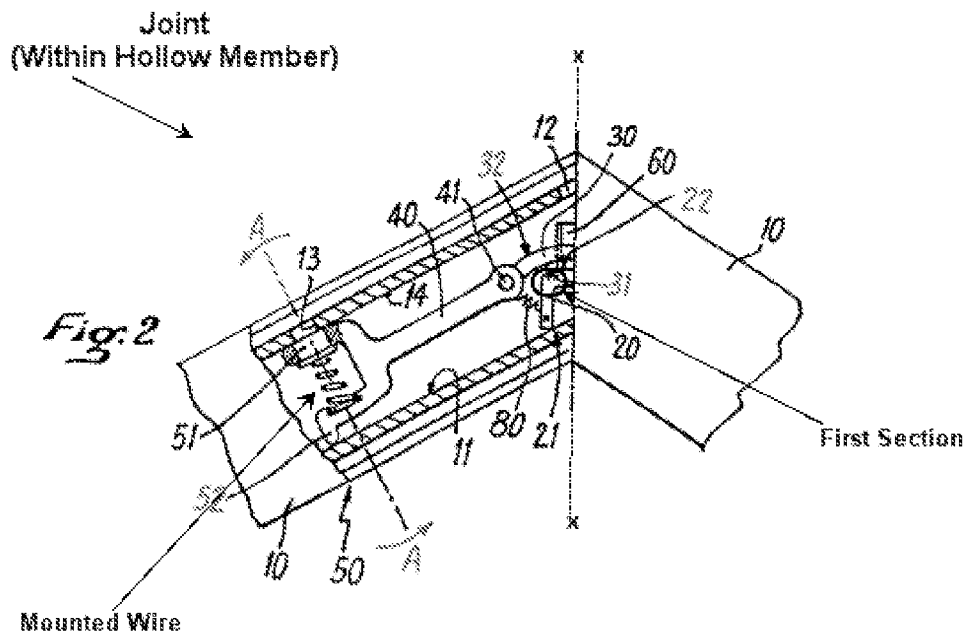
- g. "...mobile portion (Mobile Portion) being superimposed onto said slide base portion so that said second flat basement (30) is oriented parallel above said underlying first flat basement (22) in a direction perpendicular to said plane of symmetry (x-x).



Reproduced from EP0100733 (Examiner Amended)

5. Regarding claim 2, Claude discloses a joint (Fig.1 and 2) characterized in that a

" slide base portion (Slide Base Portion) further including upwardly bent legs (80) following a configuration similar to said upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion), said upwardly bent legs (80) forming recessions allowing tight fitting therein of said upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) of said sheet metal portion (Mobile Portion), wherein following assembly and introduction of said joint within a junction corner of the hollow profile members being connected, screwing of said bolt (60) leads to said sharp edges (Sharp Edge) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) contacting the walls of said corresponding chambers (11,14) of the profiles being connected, self alignment through perfect convergence of the profiles being connected along the axis of symmetry (x-x) and indentation of said sharp edges (Sharp Edge) of said sheet metal mobile portion (Mobile Portion) into the walls of said corresponding chambers (11,14) of the profiles being connected after said upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) have been deflected relatively to said second side parts (40) thereby leading to resilient stresses uniformly applied on either side of the joint being stored in said mobile portion (Mobile Portion), said resilient stress thereby maintaining the joint in a tightened condition and the profile members (10) rigidly connected."



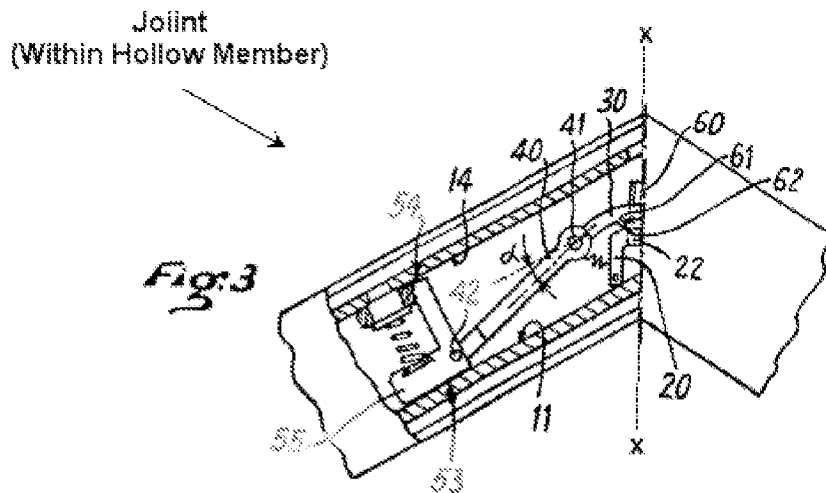
Reproduced from EP0100733 (Examiner Amended)

6. Regarding claim 3, Claude discloses "sharp edges (Sharp Edge) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) producing the indentation effect *may alternatively take the form of an arrangement of tooth or pointed pin protrusions or razor edge like sharp surfaces*, said arrangement of tooth or pointed pin protrusions or razor edge like sharp surfaces taking the form of a single acting indentations effective surface or constituted by a pair of adjacently acting indentation effective surfaces.
7. Regarding claim 4, Claude discloses, in (Fig.1 and 2) sharp edges (Sharp Edge) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) producing the indentation effect are included in an independent plate item (51), said plate item (51) being introduced into a recession being formed at the terminals of said upwardly extending sides (Upward Sides) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion).

8. Regarding claim 5, Claude discloses, in (Fig. 1 and 2) “second side parts of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) end at a bent structure thereby forming a recession (Recession) for the engagement of a pivotally mounted wire (Mounted Wire) made from steel, said pivotally mounted wire (Mounted Wire) having the form of a Π section with the legs thereof bent to upwardly extending members (Upward Sides) with sharp edges (Sharp Edge) producing the profile wall indentation effect and by that said slide base portion (Slide Base Portion) being made in two identical portions, symmetrically on either side of said plane of symmetry (x-x), said two identical portions being pivotally connected around a pivotal axis (41) thereby being appropriate for the connection of hollow profiles forming varying angles at the junction thereof and said sheet metal mobile portion (Mobile Portion) being also adjustable to profile connections at varying angles by movement of said pivotally mounted wire (Mounted Wire).

h. Regarding claim 6. Claude discloses in (Fig.1 and 3) a “bolt (60) passing through a hole (12) lying at said plane of symmetry (x-x) and exerting when being screwed an upwardly pushing force onto said sheet metal mobile portion (Mobile Portion) until said sharp edges (Sharp Edge) thereof indent the relatively softer walls of the profile member (10) being connected, passes through an internally threaded hole at said centrally located second cavity (61) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) and subsequently stops by contact of a sharp edge (Sharp Edge) thereof onto the coaxially underlying said first cavity (62) of said base

portion (Slide Base Portion).



Reproduced from EP0100733 (Examiner Amended)

9. Regarding claim 8, Claude discloses, in (Fig.1 and 3) a " bolt (60) passing through a hole (12) lying at said plane of symmetry (x-x) and exerting when being screwed an upwardly pushing force onto said mobile portion (Mobile Portion) until said sharp edges (Sharp Edge) thereof indent the relatively softer walls of the profile members being connected, passes through an internally threaded hole at said centrally located first cavity (62) of said slide base portion (Slide Base Portion), a sharp edge (Sharp Edge of Bolt) of said bolt (60) being brought in contact with the coaxially overlying said second cavity (61) of said mobile portion (Mobile Portion), wherein said upwardly pushing force exerted onto said sheet metal mobile portion (Mobile Portion) is the force being exerted onto said second cavity (61) of said sheet metal mobile portion (Mobile Portion).
10. Regarding claim 9, given the structure of Claude, as presented in the above

apparatus claims, the claimed method steps of claim 9 would inherently be performed when connecting hollow profile frame members.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 7 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES J. BUCKLE JR whose telephone number is (571)270-3739. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, Alternating Friday 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on 571-272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 4155

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor Batson/
Victor Batson
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 4155

JJB